

Case 2584

***Glabellula* Bezzi, 1902 (Insecta, Diptera): proposed designation of *Platygaster arcticus* Zetterstedt, 1838, as type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to designate *Platygaster arcticus* Zetterstedt, 1838, as the type species of *Glabellula*, a genus of minute flies (family BOMBYLIIDAE), and to confirm that this generic name is a replacement name for *Platygaster* Zetterstedt, 1838.

1. The genus *Glabellula* Bezzi, 1902 consists of minute flies in the family BOMBYLIIDAE, which have an almost worldwide distribution (Schlüter, 1976, p. 355). Twenty species (including one in amber) have been described, and many more await description. Immatures are rarely found, though they have been recorded as inquilines in the nests of *Formica* spp. (de Meijere, 1924, p. xxxv and Andersson, 1974, p. 29).

2. The genus was originally described as *Platygaster* by Zetterstedt (1838, p. 574) with the type species *Platygaster arcticus* Zetterstedt, 1838, by monotypy. Zetterstedt (1842, p. 233), noting that his generic name was a junior homonym of *Platygaster* Latreille, 1809, in the Hymenoptera, proposed the replacement name *Sphaerogaster*.

3. Contemporary workers and subsequent catalogues have listed *Sphaerogaster* Zetterstedt, 1842 as a junior homonym of *Sphaerogaster* Dejean, 1821 (p. 95) in the Coleoptera. Sherborn (1930, p. 6060) and Neave (1940, p. 240), however, list Dejean's *Sphaerogaster* as a nomen nudum and record Sturm (1826, p. 34) as a secondary reference for the name. Sturm's use of *Sphaerogaster* makes it available because it was listed in his key to genera (p. 197) and so *Sphaerogaster* Sturm, 1826 is a senior homonym of *Sphaerogaster* Zetterstedt, 1842.

4. Loew (1873, p. 208) described a new genus, *Glabella*, for his new species *femorata* from Turkestan. In Loew's remarks concerning *Glabella* (1873, p. 210) he indicated that this genus was possibly similar to Zetterstedt's *Sphaerogaster* but he could not be sure because of the vagueness of Zetterstedt's description. Loew also noted that *Sphaerogaster* Zetterstedt, 1842, was preoccupied and that if the two genera were found to be the same *Glabella* could be used in place of *Sphaerogaster*. However, *Glabella* Loew, 1873 cannot be used as a replacement name for two reasons: it was erected as a separate genus with its own type species and it is a junior homonym of *Glabella* Swainson, 1840 in the Mollusca.

5. Bezzi (1902, p. 191) proposed a replacement name *Glabellula* with the statement '*Glabellula*, nom. nov. für *Platygaster* Zett. 1838 nec Latr. 1809 (Hym.), und *Sphaerogaster* Zett. 1842 nec Dej. 1831 [sic] (Col.), und *Glabella* Loew 1873 nec Swains. (Moll.)'. Because the type species of *Platygaster* (*P. arcticus*) and *Glabella* (*G. femorata*) are different, confusion exists over which becomes the type species for the nominal genus *Glabellula*.

6. The earliest indirect designation of a type species is found in Sharp (1903, p. 257) in the *Zoological Record* for the year 1902, in which he states that *Glabellula* (erroneously listed under Stratiomyidae) is a replacement name for *Platygaster* Zetterstedt, 1838. Sharp's interpretation was followed in subsequent catalogs, e.g. Painter & Painter (1965, p. 415), Painter *et al.* (1978, p. 13). However, Bowden (1975, p. 166 & 1980, p. 384) treats *Glabellula* as a replacement name for *Glabella* Loew, 1873.

7. The name *Glabellula* has been most commonly used for this genus since Bezzi's (1902) paper, and is listed as such in all major Diptera catalogs since Bezzi (1903). *Platygaster arcticus* is the most widely known species and it is morphologically typical of the species in the genus. *Glabella femorata* is the least known (apparently only from two papers other than the original description), and is morphologically atypical of the genus.

8. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to set aside all previous designations of type species for *Glabellula* Bezzi, 1902, and to designate *Platygaster arcticus* Zetterstedt, 1838, as the type species;
- (2) to confirm that *Glabellula* Bezzi, 1902 is a replacement name for *Platygaster* Zetterstedt 1838;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Glabellula* Bezzi, 1902 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above, *Platygaster arcticus* Zetterstedt, 1838;
- (4) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *arcticus*, as published in the binomen *Platygaster arcticus* Zetterstedt, 1838 (specific name of the type species of *Glabellula* Bezzi, 1902);
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Platygaster* Zetterstedt, 1838 (a junior homonym of *Platygaster* Latreille, 1809);
 - (b) *Glabella* Loew, 1873 (a junior homonym of *Glabella* Swainson, 1840);
 - (c) *Sphaerogaster* Zetterstedt, 1842 (a junior homonym of *Sphaerogaster* Sturm, 1826).

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